niques, induction of advanced technology and purchase of crude oil and petroleum products on the most favourable terms.

Visit by a Delegation from Qatar

1504. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Qatari delegation headed by Sheikh Rashid visited India recently and sought assistance of India in regard to the setting up of joint ventures such as fertilizer plants etc. for the utilisation of natural gas in Qatar;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed by the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) A Qatari delegation led by Sheikh Rashid Oweida Al-Thani, Managing Director of Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) visited India during January 1987. During the discussions it was decided that a Joint Committee of experts from ONGC and QGPC could study the possibilities of cooperation to identify the long and short term areas of exploration and development of hydrocarbon resources.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Bifurcation of O.N.G.C. into small units

1505. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per barrel exploration and operational cost that ONGC and Oil India Limited are incurring in various oil fields of the country;

(b) how does the oil exploration cost in India compare with other oil producing countries of the world especially the middle eastern countries where the exploration conditions are more comparable with India;

(c) what are the reasons for high cost of oil production of ONGC and Oil India Limited; and

(d) whether with a view to bring operational economy Government are considering to divide ONGC into smaller units which would be more manageable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

Land taken by I.O.C. on lease

1506. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation has obtained Railway land on long lease in Bidar District of Karnataka; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Indian Oil Corporation had taken on lease a plot of land measuring 5500 sq. ft. at Bidar from the railways in March, 1964, at an annual rent of Rs. 1103/- for